



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Childhood Cancer 60-SEC PSA**  
**September 2017**

This is Acting State Health Officer, Doctor Scott Harris. Cancer in children can be difficult to recognize right away because early symptoms are often like those caused by much more common illnesses or injuries. Children often get sick or have bumps or bruises that can mask the early signs of cancer.

While cancer in children is not common, it's important to have your child checked by a doctor if they have unusual signs or symptoms that do not go away, such as: an unusual lump or swelling, unexplained paleness and loss of energy, bruising easily, ongoing pain in one area of the body, limping, unexplained fever or illness, frequent headaches - often with vomiting, sudden eye or vision changes, and sudden unexplained weight loss.

Most of these symptoms are much more likely to be caused by something other than cancer, such as an injury or infection. However, if your child has any of these symptoms, contact your doctor immediately so that a cause can be found and treated, if needed.

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